

Crossroads



Official Newsletter of the City of Wixom, Feb./Mar. '99

Water System Improvement Program – Update

The next sections of water system improvements for interconnection to the City of Detroit will begin this spring. The following areas will have water main installed beginning spring 1999:

• **Hickory Hills (and The Detroit Finnish Co-Operative Summer Camp) Subdivisions** – Water main construction is scheduled to start this spring throughout both subdivisions in early spring 1999. Resurfacing and minor curb & gutter repair and storm drain repair to be done jointly as part of the 1999 water main project. Roadways will be open to local traffic during construction. The combining of these projects will again save you, the taxpayer, thousands of dollars in addition to minimizing the inconvenience. The project is scheduled for completion in the fall of 1999.

AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 10, 1999 FROM 2-5 P.M. AND 6-8 P.M. FOR ALL PROPERTY OWNERS WITHIN THESE AREAS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THESE PROJECTS.

Major Road Water Mains – 20" & 16" water mains are planned for construction along Pontiac Trail, Wixom Road (south of Pontiac Trail), and West Road in early 1999 with a fall 1999 completion.

Wixom's elevated storage tank will start taking shape in early 1999 along the north side of I-96 between Wixom and Beck Roads. An early year 2000 completion is expected.

As the City nears interconnection to the City of Detroit please be reminded of the following:

If you are located within a subdivision or area served by City water no further connection will be necessary in order to receive Detroit water. However, if you are within an area that new water mains are being installed over the next few years, you will need to make a connection to the water service line near the street into your home's internal system if you desire to connect to the Detroit water system.

Birch Park Subdivision – Although the water mains have been installed within the subdivision, pavement completion on Potter Road and final restoration should be completed in early spring 1999.

The City of Detroit will be proceeding with the extension a 42" diameter water main, which will be constructed from the east side of Walled Lake to

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From the Mayor's Desk...

Remember those winters we have been telling our kids and grandkids about? Well they are back and they will have the same stories to tell their kids and grandkids about the winter of 1999 - that it snowed the entire month of January. We are all better than the weather and if we keep our wits about us we will survive and prosper. Remember to take your time when shoveling and don't try to remove all the snow at once. Take your time when driving, leaving plenty of time to get to your destination. Finally, be prepared for spring. With this much snow we will be seeing more run off than we have the last four or five years.

The remaining areas of the City will be piped for water this Spring and Summer. The Birch Park area construction went through pretty well with only a few areas of difficulty. With any project that affects this many individual properties, there are always a few loose ends to finish. The contractor was working hard in the Fall to ensure everyone had a hard surface driveway and some covering on their front yard. The City's consulting engineers have noted areas that will have to be addressed in the Spring to complete the project. Please try to keep calm about the process and remember we are only spending our own money. The professional staff can spot a con job as fast as any taxpayer so be forewarned.

When cabin fever takes over, try to get out to some of our winter events and enjoy this weather as much as humanly possible. Stay warm, stay healthy and most importantly stay sane.

—Mayor Michael L. McDonald

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W. Maple & Beck Roads intersection starting spring of 1999, with a fall year 2000 completion.

2000 Transmission Water Main

Construction Projects – Surveying crews will be obtaining survey information over the spring and summer 1999 for the next section of water main installation. This area will include: Wixom Road north of Pontiac Trail, W. Maple Road, Loon Lake Road and Charms Road.

If you have any questions on how to proceed with the connection to the City water system or for more information call the Department of Public Services at 624-0880.

ROAD IMPROVEMENTS FOR 1999

■ **I-96/Beck/Wixom Interchange;** City staff completed and transmitted comments regarding the final draft of the environmental assessment document findings and the final road geometric designs. A Public Hearing was held January 28th — a transcript of this meeting will be available in the City Clerk's Office by the end of February.

■ **I-96 Resurfacing Program.** – The Michigan Department of Transportation is proceeding with the resurfacing of I-96 from the Western Oakland County line to Novi Road, including the reconstruction of the South Hill Road bridge. This project will begin spring 1999.

Delays can be expected with east and westbound traffic down to two lanes during the project duration. Detours will be posted with temporary ramp closures to occur during the course of the project.

■ **Pontiac Trail** – Road widening from Beck Road to Wixom Road (two lanes to three lanes) with minor curb, gutter and storm sewer work will be done. The roadway will be opened to two-way traffic during construction, however an alternate route is advised during construction. This project is scheduled to start in early spring 1999 and be completed fall 1999. In order to minimize inconvenience and save tax dollars the Pontiac Trail water main will be constructed as part of this project. Detour routes will be posted with all businesses remaining open during construction.

■ **Napier Road** – Concrete reconstruction with curb and gutter from Twelve Mile Road to Grand River Avenue.

■ **Beck Road Project** – The Road Commission for Oakland County will be installing a FAST-TRAC (SCATS) signal at West and Beck Road in the spring 1999 and MDOT/RCOC/ Wixom will jointly share in the cost to install rubberized rail-crossing and new signals at the CSX railroad crossing in the spring of 1999. City has applied for road funding to widen Beck Road from I-96 to West Road in the next several years in

anticipation of the new I-96/Beck road interchange.

■ **Grand River Avenue** – The Road Commission for Oakland County will be widening & resurfacing Grand River Avenue from Grand Oaks Court to Napier Road in 1999. Additional information will be forthcoming on the scheduling of this project.

■ **Wixom Road Bikepath** – The City is continuing with the necessary approvals for an 8-foot wide concrete safety path along the west side from Charms Road to Loon Lake Road. Additional information on this project will be forthcoming.

■ **Leisure Co-op Safety Ramps** – As part of the City Community Development Block Grant program handicap ramps will be installed throughout the Leisure Co-op this spring/summer 1999.

■ **Gibson House Park Project** – City staff have been working on the implementation of the master plan for this park over the winter months. Look for activity to start taking place at this site along Pontiac Trail this spring and summer 1999.

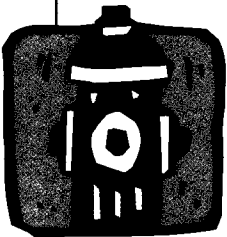
As you can see a lot of work is planned and we are working to create as little disruption as possible during the pending construction. Remember that the end result will be worth the inconveniences. For more information please call the Department of Public Services at 624-0880.

Fire Department News

Carbon Monoxide Detectors

We recommend every home have a carbon monoxide detector on every floor. They save lives. Carbon monoxide is odorless and it kills. Warning signs of carbon monoxide poisoning are headache, nausea and/or vomiting and fatigue. Severity and time of onset may vary with age, existing medical conditions and physical size. If your detector activates and

anyone in the household is experiencing these symptoms call 911. Leave your home immediately and seek shelter with a neighbor. Fire Department personnel will test for the presence of carbon monoxide and determine whether it is safe to reenter your home. In addition they will evaluate your family for signs and symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning.



Police Notes

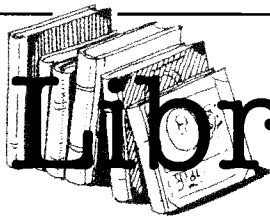
If you will be away from home for any length of time during the winter months, please have a neighbor or friend clear the snow from your walk and driveway. This deters crime by giving the appearance that someone is home.

The Wixom, Novi, and Walled Lake Police Departments will again sponsor the Lakes Area Citizens Police Academy beginning Thursday, March 11, 1999. The purpose of this academy is to explain the operations of our community's police agency and to describe the complexity of the criminal justice system. Its goal is to enhance each student's understanding of police practices and procedures.

These communities collaborated and formed this academy (Michigan's first citizens police academy) in the spring of 1994. The Academy is held semiannually and is a thirty-hour block of instruction that culminates in a graduation and banquet ceremony for participants and their spouses. Each academy consists of ten

three-hour units of instruction that cover such diverse topics as police training, criminal investigations, traffic enforcement, juvenile law, and the manner by which police typically interact with courts and prosecutors' offices. Instruction in these and other topics consists of lectures, demonstrations, tours, and hands-on experiences. It provides opportunities for academy students to ride with patrol officers and participate in police training. Police personnel from each police agency and representatives of other criminal justice agencies (e.g. County Prosecutor's and Medical Examiner's Office, District Court, MSP Scientific Analysis Unit, and etc.) furnish academy instruction. There is no cost to participate as a student.

Academy students are selected from applications filed by residents or business-owners of each community. Applicants are required to be +21 years-of-age and to pass a criminal background check. Applications are available at police officers between 9 AM & 5 PM weekdays, or by mail. We encourage residents to consider attending this academy and getting-to-know their police department better.



Library News

Use Your Library this Winter

Take time to make a trip to the library to check out some books to snuggle up with on snowy evenings. For those of us cutting back after some of our Holiday spending, using the library makes good financial sense too. The average cost of a new paperback is about \$6.00 and a hardcover is about \$25.00. If you read four new hardcovers in the course of a year, you've saved \$100.00!

What's New at the Library!

Check our Adult Audiobook collection, which is located in the Fiction Room. You'll find a listing of recent additions there, so you can check out the new ones more easily.

Children's Programs

Vacation Week Special

On Wednesday February 17th from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. we will feature a jumbo Summer Reading Club crafts day, bringing back the best of '93-'98! Six stations will be available for kids of all ages. Register beginning January 4th and join in the fun in the Community Services Ballroom over the February break.

March is Reading Month: Celebrate with Stories!

Join us on Saturday, March 20 at 10:30 a.m. for professional storyteller Ardith Laskowski as she shares some Spring stories with us in honor of March is Reading Month. Children ages 3 - 8 and their parents are welcome to sign up for this enriching program, which will take place in the Community Services Ballroom. Registration begins February 22.

Evening Drop-In Family Story Time Children ages 2-6 years old are welcome to drop in, with a parent, to our Evening Drop-in Family Storytime. On Monday, February 8, from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. the theme will be "Sweet Surprises" Then on Monday, March 8, from 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. the theme will be "Pet Shop."

Fabulous Folktales

This storytime program for children between the ages of 3 and 5, who are not yet in Kindergarten, will meet in

the Craft Room on Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. or Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. for 45 minutes of stories and art activities. Program dates are March 2 or 3, March 9 or 10, March 16 or 17, March 23 or 24. One sign-up registers you for all four dates. A parent or caregiver must remain in the building, but not in the Craft Room. Note: First and second days of registration are limited to Wixom residents only and no phone in registration on the first day.

Adult Programs

- Adult Book Discussions continue with:
- The Gift of Fear being discussed on Tuesday, February 16, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
 - Starlite Drive-In being discussed on Tuesday, March 9, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The book should be read before the program. Copies are available at the library. For more information, please contact Sheila Hooker, 248-624-2512.

Paper the Town Red!

Sue Kelly will be joining us on Tuesday, February 9th for a papermaking workshop just in time for Valentine's Day. The workshop begins at 6:30 p.m. We supply the materials, you bring your imagination! Space is limited, so call ahead to register at 248-624-2512.

Internet Workshops

Want to know more about the Internet? This might be just for you. A short demonstration of the Internet will be followed by a time of assisted hands-on experience. Choose from one of the following dates: Saturday, Feb. 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; Tuesday, March 9, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, March 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. or Tuesday, April 13, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. This program is being presented by students from Walled Lake Central National Honor Society. Call 248-624-2512 to register.

BUSINESS OWNERS!

Consider joining the Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. Call (248) 624-2826 for information or pick up information at City Hall.

Library Calendar

- Mon. Feb. 1 - Carnivale
- Mon. Feb. 8 - Evening Drop-In Family Storytime: Sweet Surprises
- Tues. Feb. 9 - Paper the Town Red!
- Tues. Feb. 16 - Adult Book Discussion
- Wed. Feb. 17 - Craft Day
- Mon. Feb. 22 - Registration begins for Celebrate with Stories, Fabulous Folktales
- Mon. Feb. 22 - Library Board meeting
- Sat. Feb. 27 - Internet Workshop
- Tues or Wed. Mar. 2/3 - Fabulous Folktales begins
- Mon. Mar. 8 - Evening Drop-In Family Storytime: Pet Shop
- Tues. Mar. 9 - Adult Book Discussion
- Tues. Mar. 9 - Internet Workshop
- Sat. Mar. 20 - March is Reading Month: Celebrate with Stories
- Mon. Mar. 22 - Library Board meeting
- Sat. Mar. 27 - Internet Workshop

Beautification News

CONGRATULATIONS 1998 BEAUTIFICATION HOLIDAY AWARD WINNERS!

Your outstanding decorating was appreciated and applauded by your fellow citizens of Wixom. A list of winners are posted at the Wixom Community Center.

Welcome New Members: Maria Brown, Margaret Reinhardt, and Marian Spisak. New members are always welcome, just call 624-2850 to sign up! We have many fun projects for 1999. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m., first Monday of the month.

Historical Society News

◆ February 15th - Dr. Weldon Petz, a renowned authority on Abraham Lincoln, will present another of his varied programs on the inspiring, yet tragic, life of this past President. A portion of Mr. Petz' extensive Lincoln artifact collection has been purchased by the Plymouth Historical Society and is on display in a special wing of their museum & available for public viewing.

◆ March 15th - George Meyer, author of "American Folk Art Canes, Personal Sculptures", will be sharing his collection of walking sticks with us. This is a unique look at one of man's oldest tools & a study of how we decorate them.

The Society meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

Senior Citizens Corner

Welcome to winter. Despite its slow arrival, we were blessed with a great shopping holiday. We have a lot of activities to get you out and keep you busy till spring. Planning for spring has already started and soon the flowers will be in full bloom. If winter gets you down, come join us for some fun. Looking forward to your smiling faces.

—Micki Sigmon, Senior Coordinator

Reminder: Most events at the Senior Center require advance sign up to assure space in the program.

Day Trips:

- Feb. 9, Tues; 11-2:00 pm, Oakland Technical Center, Tour & Lunch; Fee \$10
- Mar. 3, Wed; 10:15-4 pm; Murder Mystery Trip —Escapes; Fee \$ 49
- Mar. 5, Fri; TBA; "CATS" at the Fox Theater —Lunch & Show Fee \$ 55
- Mar. 24, Wed; 10-5:30 pm; Play & lunch at Intermezzo Restaurant; Fee \$49; "I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE"

Extended Trips

- Feb. 26-28; Fri-Sun; Agawa Canyon Snow Train; Fee \$335 (Includes 2 nights, several meals)

Fitness Programs

- Sr. Sit To Be Fit – 10-11am; M/W Walk-ins Welcome; Fee \$1/class; Check calendars for dates
- Stretch & Strength – 9-10 am; TH Jan. 14- Mar. 11 (No class Feb 18)
- Health – 3rd Monday of Month – Health Video
- March 15; 2-2 pm; Blood Pressure Screening

Crafts:

- 1st Thursday; 10-3 pm; Handcrafters Group- Open to everyone. Work on our quilt, or bring your own stitching or crafts. Other crafts available.
- 2nd Thursday; 10-3 pm Craft Days – Sign up and pay in advance (due to supply lists)
- Feb. 8, Mon.; 11-1 pm; Candy Making & Pizza Lunch (Instructor Rhoda Sheridan); Fee \$3
- Mar. 22, Mon.; 11-1 pm; Easter Sugar Eggs & Lunch (Instructor Rhoda Sheridan); Fee \$3

Movie Days & Pizza Lunch

- Feb. 24, Wed.; 12-2:30 pm – Odd couple II; \$3
- Mar. 31, Wed.; 12-2:30 pm – Horse Whisperer; \$3

Meal Days 11:30-12:30 pm

Sign up in advance; \$2

- Feb. 4, Thursday – Mac & Cheese Day
- Mar. 4, Thursday – Chicken & Dumplings
- Mar. 18, Thursday – Mystery Lunch
- Mar. 23, Tuesday – Stuffed Cabbage
- 2nd Thurs. of Month – Sandwich Day – Bring a sandwich and join us for lunch
- 4th Thursday of Month – Potluck Day- bring a dish to pass and join us for lunch.

Future Trips and Events

- Feb. 10, Wed.; 10 am – Travel Show - Escapades Travel
- Mar., TBA – St Patrick's Day Celebration – Corned Beef & Cabbage
- Mar. 25, Thursday – Special Guest – Master gardener speaks on spring gardening.
- Apr. 21-26 – Toronto, Montreal, & New York; \$1,420 Double occupancy, \$1,999 Single.

Department Of Public Works

Attention Parents:

It is imperative that you do not allow your children to play in the snow banks/drifts adjacent to the road. This creates a very hazardous situation, as the snowplow drivers cannot see them in these snow banks/drifts.

Additionally, please do not plow your snow into the street. This is a violation and you are liable if any injuries or accidents occur. Thank you for your cooperation.

Fire Hydrants

The City of Wixom would appreciate your help in keeping the fire hydrants in front of your home visible and clear of snow. Thank you for your help in keeping our community safe! If you are aware of any hydrants that are not accessible, please call 624-6421.

Winter Months Solid Waste & Recycling Services

To avoid damage to your containers for solid waste & recycling:

- Please do not put your containers in the streets.
- Keep containers visible in your driveway to guarantee pickup.
- The City will not be responsible for damaged containers.

Maintenance Of Curbside Or Rural Mailboxes

This is a reminder that postal regulations regarding delivery of mail to rural or curbside boxes require customers to keep the approach to their mailbox cleared of snow, vehicles, and other objects. (Notice 38, U.S.G.P.O.: 1988 – 202-395/73021)

Solid Waste/Composting/Recycling Info

■ The Regional Recycling Drop-Off Center in Novi is open to **Wixom apartments & multi-family units residents.**

■ The RRRASOC/Novi Recycling Drop-Off Center is located at 26300 DeWal Drive – Novi DPW Garage (north of Eleven Mile Road, west of Meadowbrook and east of Town Center Drive). The hours are Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Novi Drop-Off Center provides **single-family household** services in excess of what offered curbside.

■ The annual fee of \$150.00 is billed by RRRASOC (Resource Recovery and Recycling Authority of Southwest Oakland County) to all single-family

homeowners. The first \$75.00 is due in January (covers services for January 1 to June 31) and the final \$75.00 in July (covers services for July 1 to December 31). Any unpaid balance of three months or more may be added to the next tax roll against the property with a four-percent penalty.

■ WEDNESDAY is your pickup day and there is a separate collection truck for solid waste, recycling, bulk items, and composting. These collections take place anytime between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and collection times may vary week to week. **IF YOU DO NOT HAVE YOUR ITEMS OUT BY 7:00 A.M., WE CANNOT GUARANTEE PICKUP.**

In case of an emergency after hours and weekends, (sewage, flooding, roads, etc.) Please call dispatch at 624-1111 so they can contact the proper personnel.

New DPW Foreman

The Department of Public Works is pleased to welcome our new Foreman, Jeffery Moon. With years of expertise from the City of Southfield, we know he will bring a vast wealth of knowledge to our community.

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